

Appln. No. 10/019,992

Attorney Docket No. 10541-929

II. Listing of Claims

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended): A device for producing a contour of a planiform piece for an interior trim of a motor vehicle, the device comprising:

a cutting means for cutting said piece, for defining at least an apex of said contour, having a given profile P, and a first side, of said contour extending from said apex, wherein said cutting means includes at least:

a first means for cutting said piece, for a simultaneous production of at least said apex, according to said profile P, and of said first side on a fraction F, of its length extending from said apex, wherein the fraction F is straight;

a second means for cutting said piece, capable of permitting the production of said first side including at least one part at least of fraction F, and wherein said first and second cutting means functioning sequentially.

8. (Previously Presented): The device according to claim 7, wherein:

said first cutting means are capable of permitting the simultaneous production, of a second side of the contour, extending from said apex, over a fraction F', of its length, extending from said apex, and wherein said cutting means includes a third means for cutting the piece, to produce said second side, at least in the area of a part at

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least of said fraction F', said first and third cutting means (9, 11) functioning sequentially.

9. (Previously Presented): The device according to claim 8, wherein said first cutting means is a first knife having a continuous cutting edge formed of three parts, a first central part for forming the apex according to said profile P, a second and a third part extending on each side said central part, for forming fractions F and F',

said second and third cutting means are second and third knives, having a cutting edge for forming said first and second sides, at least in the area of a part at least of said fractions F and F'.

10. (Previously Presented): The device according to claim 9, wherein said cutting means further includes a support, for receiving said piece, such that the latter can be sandwiched, at least over a part of its thickness, between said support and said first, second and third cutting means.

11. (Previously Presented): The device according to claim 10, wherein:

said support has a contour including at least a first part, having a profile substantially identical with that of the cutting edge of the first knife, and a second and a third part located on either side of said first part of the contour of the support in the prolongation of the latter and having a profile substantially identical, with that of the cutting edges of the second and third knives, and

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wherein said first and second parts of the contour of the support overlap in the area of a first zone A, for forming a fraction F, and

wherein said first and third parts of the contour of the support overlap in the area of a first zone A', for forming fraction F'.

12. (Previously Presented): The device according to claim 11, wherein said first, second and third knives are mobile between two positions in relation to said supports, such that a first retracted position in which the cutting edges of said first, second and third knives are contiguous and in the prolongation of one another, and facing said first, second and third parts of the contour of the support, and wherein a second position in which the cutting edges are in contact with said support, said first knife coming to bear, in a first configuration, against said first part of the contour of the support, and said second and third knives coming to bear, in a second configuration, against said second and third parts of the contour of the support.

13. (Currently Amended): A device for producing a contour of a planiform piece for an interior trim of a motor vehicle, the device comprising:

a cutting means for cutting said piece, for defining at least an apex of said contour, having a given profile P, and a first straight side, of said contour extending from said apex, wherein said cutting means includes at least:

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a first curved cutting means for cutting said piece, for a simultaneous production of at least said apex, according to said profile P, and of said first straight side on a fraction F, of its length extending from said apex;

a second straight cutting means for cutting said piece, capable of permitting the production of said first straight side including at least one part at least of fraction F, and wherein said first and second cutting means functioning sequentially.

14. (Previously Presented): The device according to claim 13, wherein:

said first cutting means are capable of permitting the simultaneous production, of a second side of the contour, extending from said apex, over a fraction F', of its length, extending from said apex, and wherein said cutting means includes a third means for cutting the piece, to produce said second side, at least in the area of a part at least of said fraction F', said first and third cutting means functioning sequentially.

15. (Previously Presented): The device according to claim 14, wherein said first cutting means is a first knife having a continuous cutting edge formed of three parts, a first central part for forming the apex according to said profile P, a second and a third part extending on each side said central part, for forming fractions F and F',

said second and third cutting means are second and third knives, having a cutting edge for forming said first and second sides, at least in the area of a part at least of said fractions F and F'.

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16. (Previously Presented): The device according to claim 15, wherein said cutting means further includes a support, for receiving said piece, such that the latter can be sandwiched, at least over a part of its thickness, between said support and said first, second and third cutting means.

17. (Previously Presented): The device according to claim 16, wherein:

said support has a contour including at least a first part, having a profile substantially identical with that of the cutting edge of the first knife, and a second and a third part located on either side of said first part of the contour of the support in the prolongation of the latter and having a profile substantially identical, with that of the cutting edges of the second and third knives, and

wherein said first and second parts of the contour of the support overlap in the area of a first zone A, for forming a fraction F, and

wherein said first and third parts of the contour of the support overlap in the area of a first zone A', for forming fraction F'.

18. (Previously Presented): The device according to claim 17, wherein said first, second and third knives are mobile between two positions in relation to said supports, such that a first retracted position in which the cutting edges of said first, second and third knives are contiguous and in the prolongation of one another, and facing said first, second and third parts of the contour of the support, and wherein a second position in which the cutting edges are in contact with said support, said first

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knife coming to bear, in a first configuration, against said first part of the contour of the support, and said second and third knives coming to bear, in a second configuration, against said second and third parts of the contour of the support.

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Williams further discloses a die set, such that a cylinder 23 is actuated to lower an upper die set plate 31 sufficiently to effect cutting cooperation between lower knife members 33, 35 and the upper knife members 34, 36 to thus cut the strip and form a notch N and a tapered shoulder 29 (See Fig. 5 and Column 4, lines 7-13).

Peterson discloses an adjustable angular shearing device. The device is adapted to transversely shear sheet material from a continuous strip in a punch press. The device has an upper punch which coacts with a lower die to shear sheet material passing between them. The punch comprises a pair of members which coact with a pair of corresponding members on a lower die.

The Examiner has indicated that Applicants' invention would define over the cited references if the claims were amended to specify that "the fraction F is straight." Claims 7 and 13 have been amended to include the limitation that fraction F is straight. Therefore, Applicants' assert that these claims are not anticipated by Williams or Peterson separately or in combination. Accordingly, allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

With respect to claims 8-12, which depend on claim 7 and claims 14-18, which depend on claim 13, these claims are patentable for at least the same reason as stated above in support of claims 7 and 13. Accordingly, allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.